

**ETRC Board Meeting, March 8, 2016**  
**Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN**

**Present from the Board:** Lois Luthenauer, Michele Fletcher, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Michael Evans, Patti Gibson, Thomas Art Gibson, Donna Smith

**Absent, excused:** Alan Bruhin, Ron Burger, Diane Fyfe (all three provided input on the MNRC judges and the Youth Program for consideration, and these comments were included in the discussion on these topics).

**Absent, unexcused:**

**Members present:** Mike Smith

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports**

**President's Report:** Lois Luthenauer: delayed until discussion of old and new business.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards. The last meeting was February 20, 2016. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since February 24, 2016. Michele moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. J. Michael Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: emailed updated club officer list and uploaded membership list to AKC 2/21/16. Thank you letter to Calhoun's 3/8/16. Wrote first judge's letter 3/7/16, need to do others. Received AKC approval of judges for Spring Test except Anna Leonard.

**Website changes made & pending:** Moved the Classifieds section out into the public area & added 2 new classified ads. Added new hunt test titles for 2015, awards for 2015, new awards pictures on front page and awards page. Revised officer's listing. Added new training, club trial and hunt test dates on the front page. Added 'in memoriam' dogs to existing page. Added end-of-year membership list.

**Membership:** Sent out reminder to overdue people on March 2. Will send out again in April and May. Current membership is 35 families/individuals, with 25 people/families from 2015 who haven't yet renewed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 3/8/16 was \$13,432.19 after paying for the new duck driers.

**AKC Representative's Report:** Diane Fyfe. Absent. Discussion of new Master Amateur Club under New Business.

## Old Business

1. **Spring Club Trial #1, Darryl Miller's:** April 9. Lois will try to line up a few judges. Given the terrain there, it would be best to have three stakes – Singles Classic, a combined Junior/Advanced Junior, and a combined Senior / Master. And of course puppy stakes. We discussed some possibilities for judges, and several people mentioned bringing along people to help throw ducks. Karen and Jim will bring along the new trailer so there will be no need to drag up the big trailer from Hiwassee. Info about the trial is posted on website and in the newsletter to be issued tomorrow. Lois mentioned that she knows a small duck breeder who might be willing to sell us a dozen live ducks that we could use at the trial (our frozen ducks are getting fairly awful). It was decided to use old ducks for the first trial, and depending how awful they are, consider whether we want to get some fresh ones for the second trial.
2. **Spring club Trial #2, Chuck Atchley's Revilo:** May 14. Judges? Helpers? Anything else we need to discuss?
3. **Spring Hunt Test, May 28-29:** Judges approved except for Anna Leonard (Master B Judge). Michael reported that she has taken the test and faxed it in to AKC so presumably approval will be forthcoming within a few days. If for some reason she does not pass, Michael has an alternate plan and a different judge lined up. We went over the assignment sheet (see attached) and made plans on who to call to fill out some of the key vacancies.
4. **Fall Hunt Test:** Michael and Karen are working dates with Hiwassee and AKC. No weekend in October will work for both; last two weekends in September OK with AKC but not Hiwassee; first weekend in November and 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in September being researched. We are approved by AKC currently for October 22-23, but Hiwassee is unavailable that weekend. Lois has been talking with some people about a possible for-fee location near Sweetwater. She expects to get a tentative answer soon; at that point, she will appoint a small committee of experience hunt test people/judges to go over with her to evaluate the grounds and determine if they will suit. There is apparently enough room and enough water to run Junior, Senior, and two flights of Master, plus a building that can be used as Headquarters, Judges Banquet, and Tailgate parties. This could possibly be a permanent site for use for all our fall tests, possibly even our spring tests, or just for this fall since we are between a rock and a hard place for 2016. Lois is thinking that the fee would be around \$1500 per test. That should not be a problem for this fall, since our approved AKC dates do not conflict with this year's Master National so we should have pretty good turnout.
5. **Kevin's Fund:** Lois and Karen drafted a program document for review and approval (see attached). Lois has agreed to serve as the youth program coordinator for 2016, and Karen will assist as Secretary/Treasurer with the paperwork. Some of the features were accepted without comment, but several points were discussed at some length:
  - a. Qualifying ages: AKC Young Handlers program applies to people under 18 (1 day before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday). However, this is a private, club-sponsored program and we can set the age at whatever we decide. Proposed was to include full time students

through their 4-year college (up to age 23). There was some discussion about whether we would ever have a college student who would be interested in this program. Art mentioned that he would have benefited during his college years. We decided to leave college-age kids in for now although we doubt it will be used this year.

- b.** Point system: there was some discussion about whether we should award points for participation in hunt tests and club trials if the person doesn't pass. Karen noted that you get extra points for passing as well; however it is still possible that someone who flunked six tests would earn the same points as someone who attended and passed only 3. It was also noted that it would seem strange to give points for training sessions but not participation in hunt tests, whether passing or not.
  - c.** Funding and continuation of the program: Right now, there is \$1070 donated specifically for this program in our bank account. This will not become a separate account, it will just be tracked administratively by the Treasurer. As far as funds for future years – depending on how the program goes this year, Lois mentioned that the family may donate money next year and in the future. Also, if ETRC is happy with the program, we might want to budget money to it in the future from our general funds.
  - d.** Michael moved that we accept the draft program document for use during 2016 as written, with the change made to the title to clarify that these rules cover 2016 only, and that they program will be revisited in November/December for lessons learned and changes that we want to make (including possibly discontinuing the program). Art seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Tomorrow's Newsletter will contain and announcement of the program and the initial call for applications.
6. ***Inventory, Sale of excess equipment, purchase of new/improved equipment:*** Updated inventory provided to Board members 2/18/16; will be maintained as new purchases are made/equipment excessed or sold. Consumable supplies (poppers, MAP gas canisters, toilet paper etc.) -- Not inventoried. The small pull-behind trailer is now out in the Pegasus Parking lot and was available for show and tell; also, the 4 new duck driers which were purchased for \$600 (see minutes from last meeting) have been received and were shown off at the meeting.
7. ***Tee Shirts etc.*** Lois has talked with past Tee Shirt Guru Val McCoy and has the information she needs to make an order, as soon as she inventories our current stock. We are pretty much out of anything in sizes above small except for a very few 2XX and 3XX items. She will try to get this done and the order received before the first club trial on April 9.
8. ***Hunt Test Raffle, Website advertising: Mike and Donna Smith:*** Mike and Donna had some questions that needed to be discussed before they launch into this program. We clarified that we are a non-profit and are tax exempt ourselves, but donations from individuals to the club are not tax deductible. Donna asked if we had a brochure or flier they could hand out to prospective donors; there is nothing currently available but Karen will draft up something for possible use and get it to the Board for review. There was some brainstorming of possible donors – PetSafe, Tritronics, Gun Dog Supply, Dogs Afield, Purina, etc. Offering

advertising on our website is one possible inducement; we need to clarify how long ads will be put up in return for goods and services; currently logos go up and stay up in perpetuity.

9. ***Jody Ware Spring Seminar.*** Lois has not done anything further on this since last meeting. Next step is to confirm a date with Jody. Then we will need to address other issues such as location, coordinator, format, charge fee, Open to non-members or not (possibly after a week announcement to members), pay to Jody, etc. To be discussed again at our next meeting.
10. ***Training Committee and dates:*** March 12 is the next date and is the last one till fall. So far, 8 members + 2 prospective members have RSVPd. Hopefully we won't be rained out.

### **New Business:**


1. ***First Reading, New members:***
  - a. No new members since the last meeting.
2. ***Master National Judges Nominations:*** We received an email 3/1/16 with bios and names, and were asked to nominate 1 judge from the provided list of prior MN judges, and 2 from the list of judges who had not previously judged the MN. Some of the judges were completely unknown to anyone on the board, others are people we have used or shown under previously. After consideration of the bios provided and comments provided by absent and present board members, we decided on nominating the following three judges: Helen Romain, Sam Daly, DuWayne Bickel. Karen filled out the ballot, which was then signed by J. Michael Evans (our club delegate) and Karen as Secretary, and Karen will mail it in the next day or so.
3. ***Master Amateur Retriever Club:*** For the first year, all clubs are considered to be member clubs – although it is likely we will have to decide next year whether to join or not and possibly will have to pay a \$100 fee like we do with the MNRC. The biggest immediate concern is the responsibility, assigned to each club, to ensure that amateur handlers are who they say they are, and that they are really amateurs. It isn't as easy as just comparing the last names of the owner and handler, since some pros also run their own dogs, there are married couples with different names, etc. Also, we will have to pay \$4.50 per dog to MARC through Entry Express for reporting results on all Amateur-handled dogs, which could potentially run into a sizeable fee that comes out of our profits. Next year we could raise our fees to cover this cost, but fees are set in stone already for this year. This will require working with our HT Secretary and Master Marshals to develop a procedure for making sure amateur dogs are handled by amateurs. Possible solutions include revision to the Marshal instructions, a Marshal's meeting early Saturday morning, and/or developing an affidavit for use. This will be added to the Hunt Test to-do list so we don't forget to get this done before the test.
4. ***Revitalization of Club Newsletter:*** It has been since June 2014 since we had a newsletter, and since that time, Karen has been communicating to the membership via a number of emails. A monthly newsletter would be a better way to highlight information and get word out to the membership more effectively. The newsletter fell on hard times as a result of computer problems, old software, etc. Roberta, Karen, and Lois have worked together on a new issue

that is ready to be sent out tomorrow (pending any changes that need to be made as a result of tonight's meeting). It was decided that we would try to have a monthly newsletter for the next several months, with a publication date and a deadline for submitting material, and see how it goes. There are still some issues related to Roberta's dial-up internet connection which limits the size of items that can be shipped back and forth, and we have not yet determined if .pub documents prepared with Karen's and Lois's newer Publisher versions can be opened up by Roberta's older version.

***Any other new business?***

***Adjourn:*** There being no other new business, Patti moved that we adjourn. Michael seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Michele Fletcher 3/10/16
2. Diane Fyfe 3/12/16
3. Tom Gibson 3/14/16
4. Donna Smith 3/16/16
5. Alan Bruhin 3/16/16
6. Karen Edwards 3/16/16
7. Patti Gibson 3/16/16
8. Roberta Williams 3/16/16
9. Lois Luthenauer 3/19/16